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INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

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SEP 29 1982
OPERATION SERVICES

To: . Mr. P. N. Gauvin

Date: September 28, 1982

From: . W. A. Geiszler

Subject: . FILTER FLARE-UP TASK FORCE

For the past two months, a filter flare-up task force consisting of representatives from Research, Development, Purchasing, Quality Assurance, and Operations Services has been meeting on a weekly basis to review test results and to plan future testing. The task force is attempting to understand the mechanism of filter flare-up and to develop cigarette design parameters which minimize the flare-up potential.

To date, we have tested nine different white tippings on B&H Ultra Lights cigarettes and have observed a consistent trend toward lower flare-up rates for tippings with increasing levels of calcium carbonate. The opacity of the tipping--and therefore the appearance of the cigarette--suffers as $CaCO_3$ replaces TiO_2 in the sheet. Both Schweitzer and Ecusta have been informed of our test results so they can design sheets for minimum flare-up potential and satisfactory opacity. Schweitzer has produced a new sheet called GSR-209 which Donnie Ward has sent to Golden Belt for conversion. The new tipping is due here during the first week of October.

Kevin Squire has established a smoking procedure for analyzing the gas phase at the filter-tobacco rod junction and has presented some initial results showing the presence of acetic acid and light hydrocarbons. He is working on the software to analyze the complex mixture of gases and vapors. Kevin is also working on procedures for evaluating the burning rates (flaming and smouldering) of tipping paper since those properties appear to be inversely related to flare-up frequency.

John Easley has been scheduling factory trials for the test tippings with only a day's notice, and Jim Charles' people have been allowing us to use the 240-port smoking machine for flare-up testing with even less notice. These two factors have led to a very rapid turnaround time in the evaluation of tippings. Louis Watts has kept us informed of the flare-up complaint levels for our brands. After B&H Ultra Lights, Marlboro Lights appears to be the next biggest concern.

I plan to continue holding the task force meetings on a bi-weekly basis until we have a satisfactory white tipping in production.

Bill Geiszler

W. A. Geiszler

WAG/lad

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